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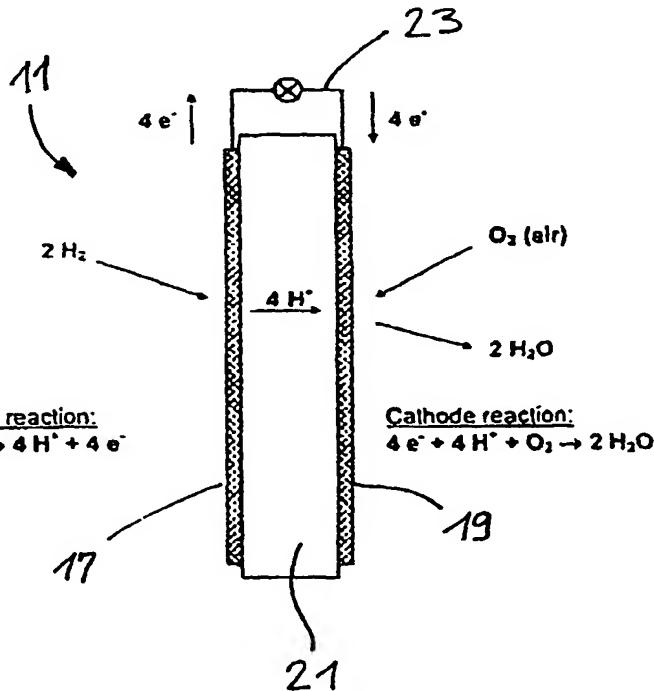
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(54) Title: PROCESS TO MANUFACTURE AN ION-PERMEABLE AND ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTING FLAT MATERIAL, THE MATERIAL OBTAINED ACCORDING TO THE PROCESS, AND FUEL CELLS

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(57) Abstract: A fibrous, flat and ion-permeable material made of synthetic fibers, in particular of synthetically spun fibers such as acrylic fibers or aramid fibers, is processed into staple fibers of a specific length and then fibrillated. In a wet-laid inclined machine (paper machine), the fibrillated fibers are formed into a continuous web and then the web or portions of it are subjected to a temperature treatment to make the web electrically conducting by carbonizing/graphitizing the web through heating.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	EP 0 834 936 A (MITSUBISHI PAPER MILLS LTD) 8 April 1998 (1998-04-08) claims 1,10,14,16,19,20,22	1-31
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